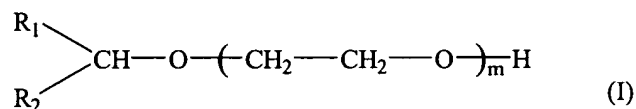


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

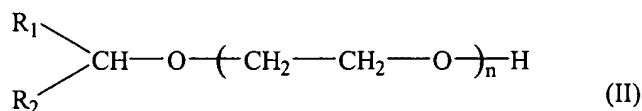
1. (Original) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the group R_1R_2CH - is 4-methyl-pent-2-yl.

3. (Original) A composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and n is an integer ≥ 0 and wherein the average molar value of n for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to 3.

4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 wherein the average molar value of n is in the range of 1 to 2.

5. (Original) A composition according to claim 4 wherein the average molar value of n is about 1.7.

6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein R_1R_2CH- is 4-methyl-pent-2-yl.

7. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where $n=0$ comprises less than 15% by weight of the total composition.

8. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 7~~ 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) where $n=0$ comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.

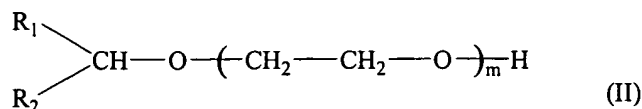
9. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 7 or claim 3-8~~, wherein the compound of formula (II) where $n=0$ comprises less than or equal to 6.5% by weight of the total composition.

10. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 8~~ claim 3, wherein the total combined weight of compounds where $n=0$ and $n=1$ is such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than 65°C.

11. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 10~~ claim 3, wherein the total weight of compounds of formula (II) where n is greater than 4 is less than 20% of the combined total of compounds of formula (II).

12. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 11~~ claim 3 which further comprises other additives.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (II):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and n is an integer ≥ 0 , and

wherein the average molar value of n for the total of the compounds of formula (II) in said composition is in the range of 1 to 3, said method comprising:

reacting an excess of C_3 - C_9 secondary alcohol with ethylene oxide in the presence of a catalyst in an ethoxylation vessel to form a mixture of two or more compounds of formula (II), separating at least a portion of unreacted secondary alcohol from the mixture, and recycling the unreacted secondary alcohol back to the ethoxylation vessel.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the C_3 - C_9 secondary alcohol is 4-methyl-2-pentanol.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~ wherein the unreacted secondary alcohol is removed by distillation to provide a composition comprising unreacted secondary alcohol in an amount of less than 15% by weight of the total composition.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein unreacted secondary alcohol comprises less than 10% by weight of the total composition.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the unreacted secondary alcohol comprises less than or equal to 8% by weight of the total composition.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 13 comprising a distillation step to remove from the composition compounds of formula (II) wherein $n=0$ and $n=1$ such that the closed-cup flash point of said composition is greater than 65°C .

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 17~~ claim 14 wherein total weight of compounds of formula (II) where n is greater than 4 in said composition is less than 20% of the combined total of the compounds of formula (II) in the composition.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 18~~ claim 13, wherein the ethylene oxide to C₃-C₉ secondary alcohol ratio is kept below 70 wt% in said ethoxylation vessel.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the ratio is kept below 10 wt%.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 20~~ claim 13, wherein the catalyst is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal base catalyst or a Lewis or Bronsted acid catalyst.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 21~~ claim 13, wherein the catalyst is a Narrow Range Ethoxylation catalyst.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the alkali metal catalyst is potassium hydroxide.

25. (Original) A method of preparing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, comprising reacting a C₃-C₉ secondary alcohol with ethylene oxide in the presence of a catalyst, and isolating the compounds from the reaction mixture by distillation.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 in the recovery of clean coal in a~~ A froth flotation process for the recovery of

clean coal from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to~~ A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Microcel®.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to~~ A froth flotation process according to claim 26, wherein the froth flotation process is performed in a Jameson® cell.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to~~ A froth flotation process according to claim 26 wherein the froth flotation process is performed in an EKOF® cell.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 to lower surface tension and to~~ A method for improveing the performance of a dissolved air flotation process, the method comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to lower the liquid surface tension of a slurry used in the process.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 in~~ A flotation process for the recovery and concentration of desirable minerals or selective removal of undesirable minerals by flotation from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 in~~ A flotation process for the recovery of sulphide minerals by flotation from a slurry, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to the slurry.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12~~ A froth flotation process for refining mineral or coal by froth flotation, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to a slurry of the mineral or coal.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 as a~~ A solvent/co-solvent for formulation of dyes, oils, resins and other industrial products, the solvent comprising a composition according to claim 3.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12~~ A process for coupling of polar organic compounds with hydrocarbon liquids, the process comprising adding a composition according to claim 3 to a mixture of polar organic compounds and hydrocarbon liquids.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 as a~~ A diluent for hydraulic fluids, the diluent comprising a composition according to claim 3.